

SITE DA-141, DADE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA

by  
Wesley F. Coleman

Originally published in Florida Anthropologist,  
vol. 26, no. 1, Sept. 1973

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FLORIDA  
COLLECTION

REFERENCE

*punctated  
sherd*

*CHRO  
Oolite  
cells*

SITE DA-141, DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Wesley F. Coleman

DA-141 is an oval hammock, 159 by 60 feet in maximum and minimum diameters, located in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 26, Township 53, Range 39 East, Dade County, Florida. This site is situated approximately three miles west of 117th Avenue. Access by vehicle can only be gained by passage on a private road through property owned by the Miami Oolite Corporation. The site is 250 yards east of the much larger Cheetum Hammock (Laxson 1962), which was also a site of Indian habitation.

At the time of this excavation, the site was four feet above the surrounding sawgrass. It was disturbed by bulldozing in October, 1969, but a small test trench was excavated by the Miami-West India Archaeological Society before more damage could be done. The bulldozer's disturbance was limited to the top four inches of the site. Vegetation still left on the site consisted of Ficus Aurea, Red Bay, Papaya, Elderberry, and Brazilian Pepper.

Excavations

A 5- by 5-foot test pit was dug on the highest point of the site down to a depth of 48 inches. Black loam, typical of Glades sites, was encountered to the 12-inch level. At the 12-inch level a hard, calcareous material composed of animal and fish bone and minute particles of charcoal was found. This calcareous material formed a layer which was twelve to fourteen inches in depth. At the 24-inch level, greyish white sand was encountered which continued for the remaining 24 inches of the test pit.

*interesting stratigraphy*

*Spanish Olive AR*

Artifacts uncovered are listed in Table 1. The top 6-inch level yielded olive jar fragments and glass trade beads. Incised pottery typical of the Glades II and Glades III period was encountered down to a depth of 12 inches as indicated in the table. Glades III types (Glades Tooled) concentrated in the higher levels and Glades II types (Opa Locka and Ft. Drum Incised) in lower levels. It is noteworthy that beneath the calcareous layer, the test pit was sterile of artifacts until a depth of 45 inches. At this depth 47 sherds of a St. Johns plain bowl, 2 bone points, and 2 Strombus celts were found.

*Paleo-Indians*

A surface collection was also made. A portion of a human mandible with four teeth and a carved shell ornament were the most significant surface finds.

*sherd?*

Specimen

- Glass beads
- Iron fragments
- Perforated shell
- Bone awl
- Bone points
- Strombus celt
- Columella av
- Carved shell
- Busycon pick
- Busycon dip

- Olive jar fragments
- Glades Tooled
- unique puncta
- St. Johns celts
- Belle Glade 1
- Ft. Drum Inc
- Opa Locka Inc
- Matecumbe Inc
- Miami Incise
- Glades Plain
- St. Johns Plain

\*See Fig. 1, b  
nor closely C

Table 1

ARTIFACT DISTRIBUTION

Specimens	Depths in inches			
	0-6	6-12	12-42	42-48
Glass beads	11			
Iron fragment	1			
Perforated shark tooth	1			
Bone awl	1			
Bone points	2	2		2
Strombus celts	1			2
Columella awl	1			
Carved shell	1			
Busycon pick		1	0	
Busycon dipper		1	1	
Olive jar fragments	7		1	
Glades Tooled rims	12		1	
unique punctated*	4		0	
St. Johns check Stamped	1		0	
Belle Glade Plain	2		2	
Ft. Drum Incised		1	5	
Opa Locka Incised		5		
Matecumbe Incised		2		
Miami Incised		1		
Glades Plain	98	15		
St. Johns Plain**				47

\*See Fig. 1, has large punctations but does not resemble Hare Hammock Indented nor closely Carrabelle Punctated. \*\*Found at 45 inches, paste is soft, walls thick.



Fig. 1. Unique punctated sherd.

## SITE DA-141

## Conclusions

The test pit excavated at DA-141 revealed the following occupancy:

1. Early Seminole [and possibly historic Tequesta] as indicated by olive jar sherds of both middle and late variety and by glass trade beads.
2. Glades II and III as indicated by incised pottery.
3. Glades I as indicated by thick, soft, St. Johns plain sherds at substantial depths.

The cultural material found at DA-141 indicates that this was a typical Dade County midden site. The carved shell fragment is possibly an ear ornament. The carving looks much like the petals of a flower. It is similar to a carving found by Laxson (1970: Fig. 2, k) at another Dade site.

## Acknowledgments

Appreciation is expressed to the Miami Oolite Corporation and to members of the Miami-West India Archaeological Society. Appreciation is also expressed to W. H. Sears, Florida Atlantic University, and to Dan D. Laxson, Hialeah, for their help in identification.

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Miami, Florida

January 17, 1973